

New Jersey Association
of Student Councils

Review

Issue 3

September
2008



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Be sure to visit
www.njasc.org!



So you want to be a State Officer?

Students from the following NORTHERN Counties are eligible to run for 2009 State Office: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex*, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, Warren

Constitutional Responsibilities of State Officers

The **President** shall preside at all meetings and shall be chairperson of the Executive Board.

The **Vice President** shall preside in the President's absence or leave of office, and shall handle elections and public relations.

The **Secretary** shall record all minutes, organize and put together the scrapbook, and take care of all correspondence.

The **Treasurer** shall keep the books of the NJASC, receive/pay all bills, and shall receive the dues of member schools. He or she shall also prepare a detailed statement of all funds received and expended for the NJASC during his/her tenure of office. A copy of this statement shall be mailed to member schools within a month after the annual conference. He or she shall also coordinate the "Top Ten Projects" program.

The Executive Member in charge of **State Charity** shall have the responsibility of chairing the NJASC Charity Drive.

The Executive Member in charge of **Publications** shall be the editor of the NJASC Review and other NJASC publications.

The Executive Member in charge of **Special Projects** shall coordinate the NJASC Regional Programs and Standards of Excellence Program.

The **Middle Level Representative** shall supervise the New Jersey Student Council week and the Honor School Program.

The **State Board of Education Representative** shall be the official voice of the students of New Jersey as a non-voting member of the State Board of Education at their monthly meetings and will report to the NJASC Executive Board concerning the activities of the State Board of Education.

***Upon ratification of the proposed Constitutional revisions on October 14.**

Additional Expectations for State Officers

You and your Advisor must be able to attend monthly **Executive Board Meetings**, which rotate between the schools of each Executive Member.

We would like to have all State Officers attend the annual **NASC Region 2 Meeting**, which is one weekend in March or April.

High School State Officers must be able to attend the **NASC National Conference** in late June. The Middle Level Representative is also invited and encouraged to attend this trip. It is expected that your school district will pay your trip expenses.

All State Officers must be able to attend BOTH sessions of the annual **Leadership Training Conference (LTC)** in July. There are also mandatory training sessions on one Saturday in March and one Saturday in May to prepare for LTC.

Still Interested? Read on...

You must be from a NJASC member school, and must attend the "Running For State Office" workshop session at the **Fall Business Meeting** in October with your Student Council Advisor.

Each member school may only run ONE candidate for State Office.

You must be a high school **sophomore** or **junior** to run for High School State Office. Candidates for Middle Level Executive Member must be able to remain in their Middle/Junior High School for the duration of the term.

It is HIGHLY ADVISED that you attend our **Leadership Training Conference (LTC)** before running for State Office. Completion of LTC is REQUIRED in order to be slated to run for President.

Application forms will be handed out at this meeting, and are due back to Executive Director Lou Miller with all necessary materials by the deadline indicated. Late applications will NOT be considered under any circumstances!

NJASC Constitution Revision 2008

It has been several years since the NJASC Constitution was last revised. In late 2006, the NJASC reaffirmed its incorporation, status as a non-profit organization, and as part of this process formally established a Board of Trustees. This Board consists of current and retired advisors, school administrators, former State Officers, as well as student representation by the current NJASC Vice President. A complete list of the current Board of Trustees is posted at www.njasc.org.

After taking this important step it became necessary to revise our Constitution, so it would not conflict with the bylaws established by our new Board of Trustees. Over the past several years we have also discovered other important issues that need to be addressed through Constitutional revision, so we are now proposing several revisions to the NJASC Constitution as part of a single proposal to be presented to the student leaders of New Jersey. The complete proposal is given on the next few pages...

The process and timelines are as follows:

- **March 15:** Publication of the Constitution Revision proposal in a special edition of the NJASC Review (that's here!), which will be delivered online to all advisors and posted on the NJASC website.
- **May 15:** Spring Awards Program. At a special Presidents' meeting to follow the award presentations, the revision proposal will be formally presented to the member schools for consideration. After discussion, a vote will be taken, at which one-third of the schools in attendance at this meeting will be needed to accept the proposal for consideration.
- **September:** The proposal now under consideration will be published in another special edition of the NJASC Review, which will be delivered online to all advisors and posted on the NJASC website.
- **October 14:** Fall Business Meeting. The proposal will be submitted for ratification by the member schools. There will be a Presidents' meeting, at which an affirmative vote by 60% of the member schools will ratify the proposal. If the proposal is ratified, the changes will take effect immediately.

NJASC CONSTITUTION – PROPOSED REVISION 2008

*(Proposed deletions, additions, or changes are in **YELLOW**. Changes incorporated through suggestion by the NJASC Board of Trustees at their 2/19/2008 meeting are in **GREEN**.)*

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this association shall be the New Jersey Association of Student Councils (NJASC), **Inc.**

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this association shall be, but it not limited to, aiding school councils in furthering and improving student participation in school government, while publicly representing the collective opinions of the students of New Jersey.

ARTICLE III – AFFILIATION

This association is affiliated with the National Association of Student Councils (NASC), New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA), National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), and the Middle Level Student Activities Association (MLSAA).

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section I

Any public, parochial, or private junior, middle or high school **in New Jersey** can attain membership upon payment of annual dues. **This shall include any school containing any or all of grades 5 through 12.**

Section II

Any county or sectional student council organization **in New Jersey** can attain associate membership (full membership, but may not submit a candidate) upon receipt of a written application and payment of annual dues.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section I

The Executive Board shall consist of nine members: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, three Executive members, Middle Level Representative, and State Board of Education Representative. All Executive Board members shall be present at the executive meetings and have equal voting rights with the exception of the President who votes only in the case of a tie.

Section II

President:

The President shall preside at all meetings and shall be chairperson of the Executive Board.

Vice-President:

The Vice-President shall preside in the President's absence or leave of office, and shall handle elections and public relations.

Secretary:

The Secretary shall record all minutes, organize and put together the scrapbook, and take care of all correspondence.

Treasurer:

~~The Treasurer shall keep the books of the NJASC. He or she shall receive and pay all bills and shall receive the dues of member schools. He or she shall prepare a detailed statement of all funds received and expended for the NJASC during his or her tenure of office. A copy of this statement shall be mailed to member schools within a month after the annual conference. He or she shall also coordinate the "Top Ten Projects" program.~~

The treasurer shall assist the Executive Director(s) in keeping the books of the NJASC. He or she will assist in receiving dues of member schools and paying bills. He or she shall assist the Executive Director(s) in the preparation of a detailed statement of all funds received and expended during his or her tenure in office. A copy of this statement shall be distributed to the member schools at the annual Convention. He or she shall also coordinate the Top Ten Projects program.

Executive Member in charge of State Charity:

The Executive Member in charge of State Charity shall have the responsibility of chairing the NJASC Charity Drive.

Executive Member in charge of Publications:

The Executive Member in charge of Publications shall be the editor of the NJASC Review and other NJASC publications.

Executive Member in charge of Special Projects:

The Executive Member in charge of Special Projects shall coordinate the NJASC Regional Programs and Standards of Excellence Program.

Middle Level Representative:

The Middle Level Representative shall supervise the New Jersey Student Council week and the Honor School Program.

State Board of Education Representative:

The State Board of Education Representative shall be the official voice of the students of New Jersey as a non-voting member of the State Board of Education at their monthly meetings and will report to the NJASC Executive Board concerning the activities of the State Board of Education.

Section III

~~The Advisory Committee shall elect the Executive Director, who shall be from a member school and shall:~~

The Executive Director(s) shall be (an) active, former, or retired advisor(s) from a current or past member school, and be selected by the trustees of the NJASC, Inc. to serve a term of three years. There shall be no limitation on the number of terms, consecutive or otherwise, that an Executive Director may serve. The Executive Director(s) shall:

1. Serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Board.

2. Provide continuity between the Executive Board of one year and that of another.
3. **Assist the trustees of the NJASC, Inc. to** keep the files and records of the Association.
4. Assist the Executive Board in setting up the annual conference, business meeting, and awards program.
5. See to it that ~~principals and sponsors~~ **all schools eligible for membership** are informed of the Association's activities.
6. **Assist the trustees of the NJASC, Inc. to** organize and supervise the annual Leadership Training Conference (LTC).
7. ~~Have the right to appoint an Assistant Director.~~ **Assist the trustees of the NJASC, Inc. to** organize a Coordinating Committee which shall advise the Executive Director(s) and the Executive Board in planning of the annual LTC.

Section IV

The powers and duties of The Executive Board shall be, but are not limited to:

1. Planning the annual conference, and business meetings.
2. Issuing reports of the annual conference.
3. Assisting in the organization of new local student councils and helping with the organization of county, regional, or sectional Student Council information.
4. Serving as a clearing house for Student Council information.
5. Having jurisdiction over all of the NJASC funds.
6. Further carrying out the duties necessary to fulfill the purpose of the NJASC.
7. Sponsoring a leadership training conference.
8. Sponsoring programs for member schools.
9. Choosing one state charity to support per year.

ARTICLE VI – ELIGIBILITY FOR CANDIDACY

Section I

The map of New Jersey shall be divided into two geographic sections; North and South. Each year, eligibility for office shall alternate between these two sections:

The Northern Section shall include the counties of: Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Hudson, Essex, **Middlesex**, Morris, Warren, Union, Hunterdon, and Somerset.

The Southern Section shall include the counties of: Mercer, ~~Middlesex~~, Monmouth, Ocean, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem, Atlantic, Cumberland, and Cape May.

Section II

In order for a candidate to be eligible, he or she must be a sophomore or junior, and remain in high school for the duration of his or her term, except for the middle level representative who must remain in middle or junior high school for the duration of his or her term.

Section III

In order for a candidate to be eligible, he or she must be present at the Running for State Office meeting held during the annual Fall Business Meeting. **To remain eligible, he or she must also be present at the Executive Interview Meeting, and at the Winter Convention to deliver his or her speech and be sworn into office if elected.**

In cases of unanticipated personal emergency that would preclude a candidate from attending the Executive Interview Meeting or the Winter Convention, the approval of a two-thirds supermajority of the Executive Board may waive the attendance requirement of this Section for the event in question.

Section IV

A nominating committee, consisting of the entire Executive Board, shall begin work on elections and nominations at least four weeks prior to the annual Winter Convention. Each member school on the geographic section of that particular year shall have the privilege of recommending one candidate for a position on the Executive Board. These recommendations shall be submitted at least six weeks prior to the annual Winter Convention. The nominating committee shall then form a slate composed of at least one candidate for each office and submit this slate to member schools at the annual Winter Convention.

Section V

Only candidates that have attended the NJASC Leadership Training Conference (LTC) may be slated for the offices of President and Vice President.

Section VI

If no candidate is initially submitted for the position of Middle Level Representative, the Executive Director(s) will contact all member schools in the section of the state electing officers to seek candidates. The Executive Board will interview all candidates submitted as a result, and will select one to become the next Middle Level Representative.

If an insufficient number of high school candidates are submitted to form a slate, the Executive Director(s) will contact all member schools in the section of the state electing officers to seek candidates. The Executive Board will interview all potential candidates submitted as a result, and include them in the slate that will be submitted to the member schools.

ARTICLE VII – ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Section I

Members of the Executive Board shall be elected at the NJASC annual Winter Convention.

Section II

All candidates ~~shall be present at the election and~~ shall deliver a speech not to exceed two minutes in length except in the case of the candidates for President, whose speeches shall not exceed three minutes. ~~Only credited representatives and candidates will be admitted to the floor of the Fall Business Meeting.~~ There shall be no bartering of votes on the floor, ***and no ballots will be accepted until all candidate speeches have been completed.***

ARTICLE VIII – REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Section I

The failure of a member of the Executive Board to attend any NJASC function without a reason, or to perform their assigned duties as previously stated, may result in his or her removal from

office. Also, the school from which the officer is enrolled shall retain the right to remove him/her from office.

Section II

Any member of the Executive Board may move for the removal of another member. A vote of all members, with the exception of the person in question, shall be taken. The motion must pass unanimously.

Section III

If a position of the Executive Board, with the exception of the President, becomes vacant, the Executive Board shall choose a runner-up for the position from the present Board's election. If the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall then assume the President's duties and a replacement for the Vice President shall be found in the same procedure as mentioned above.

ARTICLE IX – VOTING POWER

At all meetings of the NJASC, each member school shall have one vote.

ARTICLE X – CONFERENCES

The Executive Board shall determine the exact time and place of all NJASC conferences.

ARTICLE XI – DUES

The amount of dues shall be determined at the annual Fall Business Meeting of the NJASC. The membership year shall be from January to January the following year.

ARTICLE XII – ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Section I

The Advisory Committee of the NJASC shall consist of the following people:

1. A high school advisor from the Northern section, as defined in Article VI, **elected in even years.** Term, two years.
2. A high school advisor from the Southern section, as defined in Article VI, **elected in odd years.** Term, two years.
3. A middle school advisor elected from the section of the state that just elected officers. Term, one year.

Section II

~~The Executive Director shall be from a member school, elected by the Advisory Committee, and approved by the advisors of the member schools at the annual NJASC Winter Convention.~~

The trustees of the NJASC, Inc. may consult the Advisory Committee to assist it in the selection of the Executive Director(s).

Section III

Members of the Advisory Committee may be consulted to provide assistance to, or additional input and insight for, the NJASC.

ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS

Suggested amendments to this Constitution and by-laws must be submitted at least sixty days prior to a regular Conference and must appear in the NJASC Publication before the Conference. Suggested amendments may be proposed at the Conference and accepted for consideration by a vote of one-third of the schools having delegates in attendance at the Business Meeting. Such amendments must again appear in an NJASC publication and shall be submitted to the delegates at the following Conference Business Meeting. If ratified by 60% of the member schools, the amendment(s) shall become effective within three months of the vote.

ARTICLE XIV – HISTORY

The birth of this association is marked by the first interscholastic conference of student council representatives in the country. This took place on January 14, 1927, at the invitation of the student council of New Brunswick Senior High School. This is now the annual conference of the NJASC occurring every January. As a result of the unification of the student councils in New Jersey, Columbia High School was selected to write a constitution creating a statewide student council association. It was at the following annual conference that an affirmative vote of 620 delegates representing 70 schools in the state of New Jersey made this constitution effective as of 1933. The constitution has been amended numerous times since then in order to keep the association modern, the latest of which was made effective as of **October 14, 2008**.

ARTICLE XV – INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

This constitution shall not conflict with the Articles of Incorporation of the NJASC, Inc. (the corporation) as presented in the restated certification of incorporation dated November 28, 2005 or as revised thereafter. Additionally, this constitution shall not conflict with the adopted bylaws of the corporation. In the event of any conflict, the bylaws of the corporation shall take precedence as required by the laws of the State of New Jersey.



Coming Up...

Fall Business Meeting

October 14, 2008

The College of New Jersey

Winter Convention

January 7, 2009

The College of New Jersey

*Special
thanks to:*

The NJASC officers would like to thank everyone who helped and attended LTC 2008. A special thank you goes to our great JC's and SC's who made LTC such a great experience. We also want to give a special thank you to the delegates from both sessions, it was great to meet all of you. We hope to see all of you at the Fall Business Meeting!

